

## EXPRESSIONS! festival, 22-23<sup>rd</sup> July 2006, Parliament Street, York

### What's the idea?

EXPRESSIONS! is different from other festivals in York: it is created entirely by local people, and is specifically about local people. EXPRESSIONS! enables the diversity of York's ethnic groups to become more visible - in a city that is often regarded as being a white, Christian monoculture - and become central to how York people see themselves. There are about forty ethnic groups who live and work in York, and who contribute significantly to its resources, economy, culture, life and energy. EXPRESSIONS! is an acknowledgment and celebration of this. Locals and visitors alike are therefore invited to share some of the wonderful diversity of this city.

EXPRESSIONS! also reflects YUMI's commitment to a sustainable future for everyone on this planet. We are therefore looking at ways to use equipment that is compatible with this, and to buy ethically sourced and local, organic foods wherever possible.

This is YUMI's second **Multicultural Food and Arts festival**. It takes place along the main shopping street of York, and due to last year's great success, this year's EXPRESSIONS! has expanded:

**Food:** foods from fourteen cultures - all cooked by local people, trained to national standards to serve food to the public. Wonderful and exotic foods from Korea to Germany, Malaysia to Latin America, India to England: tasty snacks, exotic meals, simply delectable smoothies. Travelled the world? Travel it all over again through your taste buds, relive those memories.... and let us entice you to further travel! PLUS, this year for the first time, surprises are in store with four food demos across the two days, from four different cultures: and, as usual, all local people and projects.

**Music:** from around the world, a variety of styles for different ages - from traditional hand drumming by our stunning teenage 'Transglobals' group, to modern beats and DJ skills with a global flavour. We ask bands from the North East to perform, we just invite you to be there!

**Activities:** a variety of Asian activities: become an Asian bride, with henna and make up, clothing and hair styles; help to create a 'rangoli' along the street with colourful petals and grains; receive a head massage to soothe away the strains of our Western way of life....get active!

**Stalls:** gorgeous crafts from around the world, representing the skills of our local people's home cultures: Bolivian leathers, Turkish household items, South Indian shawls, fairly traded goods, all supporting small projects, community activities and ventures.

**Exhibitions:** local initiatives and projects with global themes: 'Finding a Voice', a long term project to enable people from minority groups in York to tell their stories of coming to live and work here; 'Home is where the Heart is' a photography project from international students at York St John's University College; 'York: City of Faiths' Initiative, a local project in which the seven main faiths practised in York collaborate; 'World Children's Vote on the Rights of the Child', a rapidly expanding international project to empower children to become aware of their rights and vote for their favourite children's rights project.